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SUBJECT: DUBAI HOSTS GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH CONVENTION

11. Dubai hosted the fourth Global Environmental Youth Convention (GEYC) December 9-13, to promote environmental awareness among youth. Dubai Municipality worked with the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE) at Sweden's Lund University and the Euro-Arab Cooperation Center -- the main sponsors -- to organize the GEYC. Held every two years since 2000, the Dubai GEYC follows the 2004 convention in Alexandria, Egypt. The Dubai event brought together over 600 students -- 100 from the UAE -- under the theme of peace and sustainable development. Students between the ages of 15 and 18, representing more than 50 countries, participated.

12. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, UAE Minister of Finance and Industry and Chairman of Dubai Municipality, attended the inaugural ceremony. Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President/Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, spoke with students on December 12. Widely covered in local press, international and regional environmental experts addressed the students and led a plenary session discussing waste management, climatic changes, indiscriminate use of natural resources, and employment of preventive environmental strategies. The five-day convention included project workshops and field activities split into seven themes: Energy; Water; Food and Agriculture; Poverty Reduction; Mobility; Waste; and Consumption and Production.

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